



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 6, 2006

CONNECTICUT'S NATIONAL GUARD TO HOLD FAMILY DAY AT CAMP RELL

Honoring Soldiers, Airmen And Families for Contributions and Sacrifices

NIANTIC, Conn., Maj. Gen. Thaddeus J. Martin, Adjutant General and Commander of the Connecticut National Guard, announces the 3rd Family Day on Saturday, September 9, 2006, 11:00 a.m., at Camp Rell, Niantic, Conn.

This year's event will honor Connecticut National Guard Soldiers, Airmen and Families for their contributions and sacrifices during the Global War on Terror.

Gov. M. Jodi Rell will be on hand to meet and greet the Soldiers, Airmen and their families, present awards and tour the displays.

The Family Day is a five-hour program of organized games for kids, rides, and displays by members of the Connecticut Army and Air National Guard and the Governor's Foot and Horse Guards.

The day's events will feature the Nation and the State colors delivered by a sky-diver. The flags were flown in Iraq and Afghanistan by deployed Connecticut National Guard units. The sky-diver will be followed by fly-overs of A-10 "Thunderbolt" jets, and rotary aircraft featuring a CH 47 Chinook helicopter and a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter.

(MORE)

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2-2-2

The Connecticut National Guard's 102nd Army Band will perform at this year's Family Day. The 102nd Army Band has earned an enviable reputation of the area's popular military band noted for their brass, woodwind and jazz ensembles.

The day will also feature the Connecticut Defenders fan van and prize wheel along with their mascot "Cutter." Willie and the Old Whiskey River band and singer Jeff Wade Clark will also perform.

"This day is to honor our families for their continuous support and contributions to the overall success of the Connecticut National Guard in the Global War on Terror. Most of the family day activities are designed with the family in mind – especially children," said Martin.

Kids can be dabbed with camouflage "paint," cross a three-rope bridge and climb inside Army equipment and enjoy rides and games. Equipment displays will include heavy construction equipment, mortars, howitzers, "Hummer" troop carriers, communication equipment and more.

Since 2002, the Connecticut National Guard has deployed more than 3,000 Soldiers and Airmen in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Noble Eagle.

Today, the Connecticut National Guard has more than 950 Soldiers and Airman mobilized and deployed in support of the Global War on Terror.

(MORE)

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3-3-3

There are 500 Soldiers from the 102nd Infantry Battalion of New Haven stationed in Afghanistan, 120 Soldiers from the 643rd Military Police Company of Westbrook, stationed in Germany as part of Operation Enduring Freedom, 70 Soldiers from the 143rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion of Waterbury, who are stationed in Iraq, 40 Soldiers from G Company, 126th Aviation of Windsor Locks, who are scheduled to return from Iraq later this week, 30 Soldiers from Detachment 1, 134th Military Police Company and 20 Soldiers from Detachment 3, 1109th are currently at Ft. Dix, New Jersey and scheduled to deploy to Southwest Asia within the next few weeks.

In addition, 120 Soldiers from the 1048th Transportation Company of Stratford are at Camp Atterbury, Indiana and 30 Soldiers from the 192nd Engineer Battalion of Stratford are at Ft. McCoy, Wisconsin and scheduled to deploy to Southwest Asia in the next few weeks.

Public parking will be available with additional parking off site with shuttle transportation provided.

The Family day is **open to the public**.

FAMILY DAY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

11:00 a.m.	Gates open (Displays are open from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM)
11:00 a.m.	Formal Ceremony@ Bleachers Delivery of Colors by Sky Diver Raising of the colors (MORE)

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4-4-4

Singing of National Anthem by Courtney Drummey
Flyover – A-10 Thunderbolts & Army Rotary Wing Aircrafts
Awards Ceremony
12:00 p.m. 102d Army Band Chamber Ensembles – Under Main tent
1:00 p.m. 102d Army Band Jazz Combo – Under Main tent
2:00 p.m. Willie & The Old Whiskey River Band – At The Point
3:30 p.m. Singer Jeff Wade Clark – At the Point
5:00 p.m. Family Day Concludes

Media Advisory: The media is invited for the entire Family Day/Open House.

Directions: I-95 to Exit #74. Right at the end of the exit, following RTE 161 south into Niantic. Turn left on to Smith Street, across from East Lyme Town Hall/Police Department. Also, accessible along the coast via RTE 156 to RTE 161 north and turn right onto Smith Street.

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